

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 KATHLEEN VESTEVICH, ) Case No. 08-CV-0027-L (JMA)  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 v. )  
14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et )  
15 al., )  
16 Defendants. )  
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18 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that an Early Neutral Evaluation  
19 Conference will be held on May 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the  
20 chambers of the Honorable Jan M. Adler, United States Magistrate  
21 Judge, Room 1165, U.S. Courthouse, 940 Front Street, San Diego,  
22 California.

23 Pursuant to Rule 16.1(c) of the Local Rules of the United  
24 States District Court for the Southern District of California,  
25 **all named parties, all counsel, and any other person(s) whose**  
26 **authority is required to negotiate and enter into settlement**  
27 **shall appear in person at the conference,** shall be prepared to  
28 discuss the claims and defenses, and shall be legally

1 and factually prepared to discuss and resolve the case at the  
 2 Early Neutral Evaluation Conference. The individual(s) present  
 3 at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference with settlement  
 4 authority must have the unfettered discretion and authority on  
 5 behalf of the party to: 1) fully explore all settlement options  
 6 and to agree during the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference to  
 7 any settlement terms acceptable to the party (G. Heileman Brewing  
 8 Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir.  
 9 1989)), 2) change the settlement position of a party during the  
 10 course of the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference (Pitman v.  
 11 Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003)), and  
 12 3) negotiate a settlement without being restricted by any  
 13 predetermined level of authority (Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc.,  
 14 270 F.3d 590, 596 (8th Cir. 2001)).

15 Governmental entities may appear through litigation counsel  
 16 only. As to all other parties, appearance by litigation counsel  
 17 only is not acceptable. Retained outside corporate counsel shall  
 18 not appear on behalf of a corporation as the party who has the  
 19 authority to negotiate and enter into a settlement. The failure  
 20 of any counsel, party or authorized person to appear at the Early  
 21 Neutral Evaluation Conference as required will result in the  
 22 immediate imposition of sanctions.

23 All conference discussions will be informal, off the record,  
 24 privileged, and confidential.

25 Counsel for any non-English speaking parties is responsible  
 26 for arranging for the appearance of an interpreter at the  
 27 conference.

28 Although the submission of statements is not required in

1 advance of the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference, parties may  
2 submit concise statements if desired. If a statement is  
3 submitted, it shall be provided to chambers no later than one  
4 week prior to the scheduled conference.<sup>1</sup> If the parties submit  
5 statements in connection with the Early Neutral Evaluation  
6 Conference, they may either do so on a confidential basis or may  
7 exchange their statements.

8 Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply  
9 to this case. All discovery shall be stayed until after the Rule  
10 26(f) conference, unless otherwise permitted by Rule 26(f) or  
11 court order.

12 In the event the case does not settle at the Early Neutral  
13 Evaluation Conference, the parties shall also be prepared to  
14 discuss the following matters at the conclusion of the  
15 conference:

16 1. Any anticipated objections under Federal Rule of Civil  
17 Procedure 26(a)(1) to the initial disclosure provisions of Rule  
18 26(a)(1)(A-E);

19 2. The scheduling of the Rule 26(f) conference;

20 3. The date of initial disclosures and the date for  
21 lodging the discovery plan following the Rule 26(f) conference;  
22 and

23 4. The scheduling of a Case Management Conference pursuant  
24 to Rule 16(b).

25 Plaintiff's(s') counsel shall give notice of the Early  
26 Neutral Evaluation Conference to parties responding to the  
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28 <sup>1</sup>Statements may be delivered directly to chambers, e-mailed to [efile.adler@casd.uscourts.gov](mailto:efile.adler@casd.uscourts.gov), or faxed to (619) 702-9939.

1 complaint after March 19, 2008.

2 Questions regarding this case may be directed to the  
3 Magistrate Judge's law clerk at (619) 557-5585.

4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5 DATED: March 19, 2008

6   
7 Jan M. Adler  
U.S. Magistrate Judge

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**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CONSENT TO TRIAL  
BEFORE A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), YOU  
ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THIS DISTRICT  
MAY, UPON THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, ON FORM 1A AVAILABLE IN THE  
CLERK'S OFFICE, CONDUCT ANY OR ALL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING A JURY  
OR NON-JURY TRIAL, AND ORDER THE ENTRY OF A FINAL JUDGMENT.  
COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE  
CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO CONSENT.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT YOUR DECISION TO CONSENT OR NOT TO CONSENT IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED SOLELY TO THE CLERK OF COURT. ONLY IF ALL PARTIES CONSENT WILL THE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE JUDGE TO WHOM THE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED BE INFORMED OF YOUR DECISION.

JUDGMENTS OF THE U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES ARE APPEALABLE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS STATUTE AND THE FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE.